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Update- Principal Border Entry Points for U.S. Agricultural Exports

Report Categories:

Exporter Guide
FAIRS Subject Report
Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Food Safety

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Report Highlights:

This report offers an overview of the primary ports of entry (POE) along the U.S.-Mexico border, through which the majority of agricultural import operations take place. This report is an update of the "Principal Mexican Northern Inland Border Entry Points for U.S. Agricultural Products" report submitted on 8/28/08 (MX8502).

Executive Summary: This report contains an overview of Mexico's primary inland points of entry (POE), which are presented based on their geographic location, from West to East. In terms of import operations, the top POE for agricultural products is Nuevo Laredo, which accounts for over a third of all imports. Colombia is second, followed by Tijuana, Reynosa, Ciudad Juárez, Nogales, Mexicali, Piedras Negras, and Matamoros.

General Information:

Mexico's Secretariat of Agriculture, Livestock, Rural Development, Fishery and Food (SAGARPA), is responsible for inspecting imported agricultural products. Inspectors from SAGARPA's National Service of Health, Food Safety, and Food Quality, or SENASICA, perform documentary and physical inspection upon entry. Certain agricultural products are authorized to be imported into designated border entry points (for detailed information please read GAIN report "Modifications to Authorized Crossing Border Points for Specific Agricultural Commodities" (MX8020)). Inspections are performed at authorized, privately owned inspection facilities, which are also known as Verification Inspection Points (VIPs). Mexico's Animal Health Law requires that imported meat and poultry products be inspected on the Mexican side of the border, while fresh fruits and vegetables, cotton, and some grains (not transported by rail) are normally inspected on the U.S. side of the border. Live animals are always inspected on the U.S. side of the border as well at state-owned and privately owned livestock export pens.



Border Entry Points

Tijuana, Baja California

Overview: Tijuana is the third most important inland border entry point for imports of agricultural products from the United States. Principal products imported into Mexico through Tijuana include produce (67% of total), meat and meat products (30%), and grains (3%). Ranked by volume, specific products include fresh vegetables and fruits, poultry, red meat, meat preparations, corn gluten meal, barley and rice. Mexican exports of agricultural products to the United States through Tijuana primarily consist of hot peppers, tomatoes, strawberries, mangoes, pineapples, watermelons, and processed food products.

Verification and Inspection Points (VIP's) in Tijuana: There are eight facilities authorized by SENASICA to operate as Verification Inspection Points (VIPS) for imported agricultural products. Four inspection points are located on the U.S. side of the border for frozen, fresh and dry produce, grains, planting seeds and flowers. An equal number of inspection points are located on the Mexican side of the border at which SENASICA's personnel inspect meat and poultry products, along with fresh and refrigerated fruits and vegetables. As noted above, all meat, poultry and meat by products are inspected on the Mexican side of the border. Grain transported by rail crossing from Otay Mesa, California, is inspected on the Mexican side of the border at Estación García, while grain transported by rail from El Centro, California, is inspected at Estación Tecate (on the premises of Cervecería Cuauhtémoc). See Annex for detailed information on each of the VIPs in Tijuana. Note: In October, 2010, a new VIP was constructed in the fiscal trade zone at the Port of Ensenada, Ensenada, Baja California. At the time of this report, this facility had not yet received authorization from SENASICA to begin operations.

SENASICA Inspection Office in Tijuana: SENASICA officials are stationed in the SAGARPA building at the Otay Mesa border crossing point. SAGARPA's working hours is from 9:00 am to 6:00 pm, Monday to Friday.

Traffic trends: Product is primarily transported by truck or rail. Commercial vehicles crossing from San Diego use the Otay Mesa Bridge. Product transported by rail crosses through San Ysidro, California, and Otay, California. Products transported by rail (grains, powdered milk, and animal fats) also cross into Tecate, México, from El Centro, California. Carrizo Gorge Railway provides rail service on both sides of the border.

Mexicali, Baja California

Overview: Mexicali is the sixth most important inland border entry point for agricultural products from the United States. Principal products imported into Mexico through Mexicali include grains (39% of total), red meat (24%), vegetables (20%), poultry (11%), fruits (5%) and planting seeds (1%).

Ranked by volume, specific products include corn, rice, lettuce, onions, meat and meat variety products, poultry, cantaloupes, alfalfa, and grass seed. Mexican exports of agricultural products to the United States through Mexicali primarily consist of fresh vegetables.

Verification and Inspection Points (VIP's) in Mexicali: There are four facilities authorized by SENASICA to operate as VIPs for agricultural products. One inspection point is located on the U.S. side of the border for fresh produce and grains. Three inspection points are located on the Mexican side of the border for meat, meat preparations, and poultry. Products such as grains, cottonseed meal and lard enter Mexico by rail into Mexicali and are inspected on the Mexican side of the border at the Ferromex rail yard. (See Annex)

SENASICA Inspection Office in Mexicali: Senasica's personnel are stationed at the SAGARPA building at the Puerto Fronterizo Nuevo Mexicali crossing point. SAGARPA's working hours at the VIPs and in the main office are from 9:30 am to 6:00 pm, Monday to Friday.

Traffic trends: Product is transported by truck and rail. Commercial vehicles crossing from Calexico use the Puerto Nuevo International Bridge. Product transported by rail crosses through Calexico and Mexicali in California. Union Pacific Railroad and Ferrocarril Mexicano (Ferromex) provide rail service at this crossing point.

Nogales, Sonora

Overview: Nogales is the fifth most important inland border entry point for U.S. food and agricultural products. Principal products imported into Mexico through Nogales include fresh fruits and vegetables (64% of total), meat, meat products, and meat for further processing (30%), grains (5%), and planting seeds (1%). Ranked by volume, specific products include apples, pears, grapes, stone fruit, tomatoes, lettuce, broccoli, red meat, pork, poultry, soybeans, wheat, cracked corn, planting seeds, and hogs for reproduction. Mexican exports of agricultural products to the United States through Nogales primarily consist of cattle, tomatoes, hot peppers, cucumbers, oranges, mangoes and peaches.

Verification and Inspection Points (VIP's) in Nogales: There are four facilities authorized by SENASICA to operate as official inspection points (VIPs) for agricultural products. Two VIP's are located on the U.S. side of the border for fresh/dry fruits and vegetables, planting seeds and grains. An equal number of VIP's are located on the Mexican side of the border for meat, meat preparations and poultry. Products such as grains cross by rail from Nogales, Arizona, and are inspected on the Mexican side of the border at the Ferromex rail yard. Hogs for reproduction and other live animals are inspected in Nogales, Arizona, at privately owned facilities. (See Annex)

SENASICA Inspection Office in Nogales: SENASICA inspection staff are stationed in the SAGARPA building at the Mariposa International Bridge. SAGARPA's working hours at the VIPs and in the main office are from 9:30 am to 6:00 pm, Monday to Friday.

Traffic trends: Product is transported by truck and rail. Commercial vehicles crossing from Nogales, Arizona, use the Mariposa International Bridge. Product transported by rail crosses at the Dennis DeConcini border crossing point. Union Pacific and Ferrocarril Mexicano (Ferromex) provide rail service at this crossing point.

Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua

Overview: Ciudad Juarez is the fourth most important inland border entry point for U.S. food and agricultural products. Principal products imported into Mexico through Ciudad Juarez include meat, meat products and meat for further processing (42% of total), grains (20%), fresh produce (18%), dairy products (11%) and live horses (9%). Ranked by volume, specific products include poultry, poultry for further processing, red meat, variety meats, cracked corn, soybean meal, potatoes, rice, wheat, sorghum, cotton seed meal, vegetables, lactalbumin, powdered milk and horses. Mexican exports of agricultural products to the United States via Ciudad Juarez primarily consist of cattle, horses and produce.

Verification and Inspection Points (VIP's) in Ciudad Juarez There are five facilities authorized by

SENASICA to operate as official inspection points (VIPs) for agricultural products. Three inspection points are located on the U.S. side of the border for fresh/dry fruits and vegetables, planting seeds, grains and used agricultural machinery. Two inspection points are located on the Mexican side of the border for meat, meat preparations, and poultry. Grains are primarily transported by rail, and are inspected on the Mexican side of the border at either the Estación Meseta Rail Yard or at the Ferromex Central Station. Livestock exported to Mexico is inspected on the U.S. side of the border in El Paso, Texas, and in Santa Teresa, New Mexico. (See Annex)

SENASICA Inspection Office in Ciudad Juárez: Senasica's personnel are stationed at the SAGARPA building at the Puente Internacional Zaragoza Bridge in Ciudad Juárez. SAGARPA's working hours at the VIPs and in the main office are from 9:00 am to 6:00 pm, Monday to Friday.

Traffic trends: Product is transported by truck and rail. Commercial vehicles crossing from El Paso utilize the Ysleta-Zaragoza international bridge. Product transported by rail crosses at the El Paso – Ciudad Juárez border entry point. Burlington Northern and Ferrocarril Mexicano (Ferromex), manage rail service at this crossing point.

Piedras Negras, Coahuila

Overview: Piedras Negras is the seventh most important inland border entry point for U.S. food and agricultural products. Principal products imported into Mexico through Piedras Negras include grains and grain meals (56% of total), red meat, poultry, variety meats and animal fat (40%) and horses for slaughter (4%). Ranked by volume, specific products include corn, soy, soybean meal, wheat, cotton seed, rice, alfalfa, red meat, poultry, animal hides, horses for slaughter, and cattle feed additives.

Mexican exports of agricultural products to the United States through Piedras Negras consist of onions and hot peppers.

Verification and Inspection Points (VIP's) in Piedras Negras: There are two facilities authorized by SENASICA to operate as official inspection points (VIPs) for agricultural products. Both inspection points are located on the Mexican side of the border for meat, meat preparations, poultry, hides and produce. One of the inspection points is equipped to handle perishable products (meat, poultry and produce) shipped by rail. Grains and meals are transported by rail and are inspected on the Mexican side of the border at the Ferromex rail yard. Horses for slaughter are inspected in Eagle Pass, Texas, at the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) livestock export pens. (See Annex)

SENASICA Inspection Office in Piedras Negras: SENASICA's personnel are stationed at the SAGARPA building at the Puente Internacional II Bridge in Piedras Negras. SAGARPA's working

hours at the VIPs and in the main office are from 9:00 am to 6:00 pm, Monday to Friday.

Traffic trends: Product is transported by truck and rail. Commercial vehicles cross from Eagle Pass, Texas, at the Camino Real International Bridge. Product transported by rail crosses at the Charles Fisby International Railroad Bridge. Union Pacific and Ferrocarril Mexicano (Ferromex) provide rail service at this crossing point.

Colombia, Nuevo León

Overview: Colombia is considered the most important inland border entry point for U.S. meat and poultry products. Principal products imported through Colombia include meat, meat products, deboned hams and poultry for further processing (80% of total), and poultry products (18%), grains, fresh fruits and vegetables (2%). Ranked by volume, specific products include mechanically deboned poultry for further processing, hams for further processing, red meat cuts, and frozen and refrigerated chicken leg quarters, fruits, grains and vegetables.

Verification and Inspection Points (VIP's) in Colombia: There are four facilities authorized by SENASICA to operate as official inspection points (VIPs) for agricultural products. The four VIPs are located on the Mexican side of the border (within the fiscal trade zone at the Colombia border entry point) for meat, meat preparations, poultry, fresh and dry produce and grains.

SENASICA Inspection Office in Colombia: SENASICA's personnel are stationed in the SAGARPA building at the Colombia International Bridge. SAGARPA's working hours at the VIPs and in the main office are from 9:00 am to 6:00 pm, Monday to Friday.

Traffic trends: Product is transported by truck. Commercial vehicles cross from Laredo, Texas to Colombia, Nuevo León at the Colombia-Solidarity International Bridge.

Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas

Overview: Nuevo Laredo is considered as the most important overall inland border entry points for U.S. agricultural products. Principal products imported through Nuevo Laredo include grains (45% of total), red meats and meat for further processing (25%), poultry products (20%), corn meal, soybean meal and other grain flours (5%) and livestock (5%). Ranked by volume, specific products include coarse grains, red meats and frozen and refrigerated chicken leg quarters, mechanically deboned poultry for further processing, grain meals and flour, dairy products and cattle. Mexican exports of agricultural products to the United States through Nuevo Laredo include livestock, red meat and

processed food products.

Verification and Inspection Points (VIP's) in Nuevo Laredo: There are six facilities authorized by SENASICA to operate as official inspection points (VIPs) for agricultural products. Four inspection points are located on the U.S. side of the border for fresh/dry fruits and vegetables, planting seeds and grains. Two inspection points are located on the Mexican side of the border (inside the fiscal trade zone at the World Trade International Bridge) for meat, meat preparations, poultry, fresh and dry produce and grains. Grains and other products transported by rail cross from Laredo, Texas, into Nuevo Laredo, Mexico, and are inspected on the Mexican side of the border at the Estación Sánchez Rail Yard. Livestock exported to México is inspected on the U.S. side of the border at the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) export pen in Laredo, Texas.

SENASICA Inspection Office in Nuevo Laredo: SENASICA's personnel are stationed at the SAGARPA building located in downtown Nuevo Laredo. SAGARPA's working hours at the VIPs and in the main office are from 9:00 am to 6:00 pm, Monday to Friday.

Traffic trends: Product is transported by truck and rail. Commercial vehicles cross at the World Trade International Bridge. Product transported by rail crosses through the Laredo-Nuevo Laredo border entry point. Rail service is provided by Kansas City Southern de México.

Reynosa, Tamaulipas

Overview: Reynosa is considered the third most important inland border entry point for U.S. food and agricultural products. Principal products imported through Reynosa include grains (55% of total), cotton (20%), meat products (15%), and poultry (10%). Ranked by volume, specific products include, sorghum, corn, planting seeds, cotton, pork hams, red meats, and frozen and fresh chicken leg quarters. (Note: As of July 13, 2010, the Mexican Tax Administration Service (SAT) re-authorized Reynosa as a port of entry for pork). Mexican exports of agricultural products to the United States via Reynosa consist primarily of citrus and vegetables.

Verification and Inspection Points (VIP's) in Reynosa: There are six facilities authorized by SENASICA to operate as official inspection points (VIPs) for agricultural products. Four inspection points are located in Hidalgo, Texas, for fresh/dry fruits and vegetables, cotton, planting seeds and grains. Two inspection points are located on the Mexican side of the border for meat, meat preparations, and poultry. (See Annex)

SENASICA Inspection Office in Reynosa: SENASICA's personnel are stationed at the SAGARPA building located at the Puente Internacional Nuevo Amanecer in Reynosa. SAGARPA's working

hours at the VIPs and in the main office are from 9:30 am to 6:00 pm, Monday to Friday.

Traffic trends: Product is transported by commercial vehicles, which cross at the Pharr-Reynosa (Nuevo Amanecer) International Bridge or at the Progreso-Nuevo Progreso International Bridge.

Matamoros, Tamaulipas

Overview: Matamoros is considered the ninth most important inland border entry point for U.S. food and agricultural products. Principal products imported through Matamoros include grains (95% of total) and poultry and variety meats (5%). Ranked by volume, products include soybeans, soybean meal, sorghum, wheat, cotton seed, cracked corn, oat meal alfalfa pellets, red meat and poultry.

Verification and Inspection Points (VIP's) in Matamoros: There are two facilities authorized by SENASICA to operate as official inspection points (VIPs) for agricultural products. One inspection point is located in Brownsville, Texas, for dry vegetables, grains and seeds. The other inspection point is located on the Mexican side of the border in Matamoros, Tamaulipas, for meat, meat products, and poultry. Hogs for reproduction and other live animals exported to México are inspected on the U.S. side of the border at the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) export pen in Brownsville, Texas. (See Annex)

SENASICA Inspection Office in Matamoros: SENASICA's personnel are stationed in the SAGARPA building at the Puente Internacional Ignacio Zaragoza border entry point in Matamoros.

SAGARPA's working hours at the VIPs and in the main office are from 9:00 am to 6:00 pm Monday to Friday.

Traffic trends: Product is transported by truck and rail. Commercial vehicles crossing from Brownsville, Texas, pass through the Veterans International Bridge at Los Tomates. Product transported by rail crosses through the Brownsville-Matamoros border entry point. Rail service is provided by Kansas City Southern de México

For More Information

FAS/Mexico Web Site: We are available at www.mexico-usda.com or visit the FAS headquarters' home page at www.fas.usda.gov for a complete selection of FAS worldwide agricultural reporting.

FAS/Mexico YouTube Channel: Catch the latest videos of FAS México at work

<http://www.youtube.com/user/ATOMexicoCity>

Other Relevant Reports Submitted by FAS/México:

Report Number	Subject	Date Submitted
MX8020	Modifications to Authorized Crossing Border Points for Specific Agricultural Commodities	2/25/2008
MX0514	FAIRS Export Certificate Report	12/10/2010
MX0320	FAIRS Country Report	12/16/2010

Useful USDA Websites:

Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS): www.fsis.usda.gov

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS): www.aphis.usda.gov

Useful Mexican Web Sites: Mexico's equivalent to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (SAGARPA) can be found at www.sagarpa.gob.mx. Mexico's equivalent to FSIS and APHIS (SENASICA) can be found at: www.senasica.gob.mx. The Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARNAT) which regulates imports of forestry products including seeds and wood products can be found at: www.semarnat.gob.mx. Mexico's Agency for Environmental Protection (PROFEPA), which also inspects imported wood products, can be found at www.profepa.gob.mx. The Federal Commission for the Protection against Sanitary Risk (COFEPRIS) which regulates imports of processed products can be found at: www.cofepris.gob.mx. Mexico's Customs Agency (ADUANAS), can be found at: www.aduanas.gob.mx. These web sites are mentioned for the readers' convenience but USDA does NOT in any way endorse, guarantee the accuracy of, or necessarily concur with, the information contained on the mentioned sites.

VERIFICATION AND INSPECTION POINTS (VIP's)

Tijuana and Mexicali, Baja California			
NAME	LOCATION	PHONE	PRODUCT
Unión Sanitaria de Productos Alimenticios	Tijuana Border Zone	(664) 623-8201 / 03	Meat and meat products
Distribuidora la Canasta	Tijuana Border Zone	(664) 681-0609	Meat and meat products
Grupo Industrial y Comercial del Noroeste	Tijuana Bonded Area	(664) 647-5973	Meat, meat products, produce
Baja Frige	Tijuana Border Zone	(664) 979-0852	Meat and meat products

Coast Citrus Distributors, Inc.	San Diego, CA	(619) 661-7950	Produce
M&M Import/Export Inc.	San Diego, CA	(619) 279-2643	Produce
Mexbros Fruit Inc.	San Diego, CA	(619) 671-9200	Produce
Richard L. Jones-Tecate	Tecate, CA	(619) 478-2148	Dry Vegetables, seeds, grains
A&U Mex Export Inc	Calexico, CA	(760) 768-0283	Produce
Bodega 29 S	Mexicali Border Zone	(686) 551-9100	Meat and meat products
Comercializadora Frontera	Mexicali Border Zone	(686) 564-0840	Meat and meat products
Centro Comercial El Pachuco	Mexicali Border Zone	(686) 553-5635	Meat and meat products

Nogales, Sonora			
NAME	LOCATION	PHONE	PRODUCT
Inmobiliario Maymar	Nogales, Sonora Bonded Area	(631) 315-9173	Meat, meat products, fruits and vegetables
Servicio de Almacén Fiscalizado de Nogales	Nogales, Sonora Bonded Area	(631) 315-9158	Meat, meat products, fruits and vegetables
Mariposa International Inspection Station	Nogales, Arizona	(520) 761-4460	Produce
Agrícola Cactus	Rio Rico, Arizona	(520) 281-5795	Produce

Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua			
NAME	LOCATION	PHONE	PRODUCT
Corporativo de Negocios de Comercio Exterior	Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua Bonded Area	(656) 397-0361	Meat, meat products, fruits, vegetables, pet food, dairy
Frase Alimentos S.A. de C.V.	Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua Bonded Area	(656) 616-0088	Meat and meat products
Trading Commodities, Inc.	El Paso, Texas	(915) 859-9008	Dry vegetables, seeds and coarse grains
El Paso Exports, Inc.	Santa Teresa, New Mexico	(505) 589-4447	Fresh and dry vegetables, seeds and grains
D'Allende Foods, Inc.	El Paso, Texas	(915)-532-5250	Produce

Piedras Negras, Coahuila			
NAME	LOCATION	PHONE	PRODUCT
Distribuidora Internacional de Carnes	Pidras Negras, Coahuila Border Zone	(878) 786-2711	Meat, meat products and produce
Ferrocarril Mexicano, S.A. de C.V.	Ferromex Rail Yard, Piedras Negras, Coahuila		Meat, meat products and produce

Colombia Nuevo, Leon			
NAME	LOCATION	PHONE	PRODUCT
S.R. Asesores Aduanales de Nuevo Laredo	Columbia, Nuevo Leon Bonded Area	(867) 734-0206	Meat, meat products, fruits, vegetables, pet food, dairy
DICEX	Columbia, Nuevo Leon Bonded Area	(867) 734-0255	Meat, meat products, fruits, vegetables, pet food, dairy
Santos Esquivel y Compañía	Columbia, Nuevo Leon Bonded Area	(867) 734-0039	Meat, meat products, fruits, vegetables, pet food, dairy
Grupo Coordinador de Importadores	Columbia, Nuevo Leon Bonded Area	(867) 734-0134	Meat, meat products, fruits, vegetables, pet food, dairy

Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas			
NAME	LOCATION	PHONE	PRODUCT
Palos Garza	Columbia, Nuevo Leon Bonded Area	(867) 724-2020	Meat, meat products, fruits, vegetables, pet food, dairy
Grupo Coordinador de Importadores, S.A. de C.V.	Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas Bonded Area	(867) 734-0134	Meat, meat products, fruits, vegetables, pet food, dairy

Trade Mex Corp (Mextra)	Laredo, Texas	(956) 857 3120	Produce, seeds, grains
North American Forwarding, Inc.	Laredo, Texas	(956) 791-3402 93/94	Produce, seeds, grains
Jaime Rodriguez Garza	Laredo, Texas	(956) 717-0674	Cotton
Air Logistics, Inc.	Laredo, Texas	(956) 333-0704	Fresh and frozen vegetables, Cotton

Reynosa, Tamaulipas			
NAME	LOCATION	PHONE	PRODUCT
Consorcio Aduanero. Abanto y Asociados	Reynosa, Tamaulipas Border Zone	(899) 946-0139	Meat and meat products
Hidalgo Logistics de	Reynosa, Tamaulipas Border Zone	(899) 958-1442	Meat, meat products, fruits and produce
Century Forwarding Agency Inc. (Colimar)	Mission, Texas	(956) 843-6011	Cotton/Produce
Bebo Distributing Co. Inc.	Pharr, Texas	(956) 702-4415	Produce
B & P Bridge Company	Progreso, Texas	(956) 565-6361	Produce
Four Seasons Produce, Inc.	Hidalgo, Texas	(956) 843-8901	Produce

Matamoros, Tamaulipas			
NAME	LOCATION	PHONE	PRODUCT
Comercializadora Copeh	Matamoros, Tamaulipas Border Zone	(868) 8149882	Meat and meat products
Valley Inspection S. LLC.	Brownsville, Texas	(956) 838-1816	Dry vegetables, seeds and grains